

CONGRATULATING THE HIGHLAND PARK GIRLS SWIMMING AND DIVING TEAM

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to congratulate the Highland Park Girls Swimming and Diving Team on winning the title of UIL 4A State Champions.

In his first year coaching at Highland Park, Jess Cole led the girls to their eighth consecutive win in the UIL Texas State Championship on Saturday, February 23, 2008. Those who competed at the State meet include Allison Arnold, Megan Arnold, Hannah Ferrin, Bolton Harris, Delaney Rolfe, Katy Streepey, Katy Tye, and Alex Weber. Their continued success can be attributed to their hard work, dedication, passion for swimming, and a strong sense of team spirit. In addition to claiming the title of State Champions, the Highland Park Girls Swimming and Diving Team now holds the longest State record in UIL swimming and diving, matching Class A Booker's record in girls golf as the longest in Texas high school sports since recordkeeping began in 1910.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of the Highland Park Girls Swimming and Diving Team for their well-deserved victory and wish them all the best in future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO NIAGARA COUNTY ON ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and delight that I rise today to recognize and celebrate Niagara County on its 200th anniversary.

From the locks of the Erie Canal to the roar of Niagara Falls, and from its rich history to its wonderful and generous people, Niagara County has much to celebrate on its bicentennial.

The first settlers of this area were amazed and continually challenged by the geographic surprises that awaited them. The most well-known surprise is the 12,000-year-old Niagara Falls, which the early settlers looked upon as an unexplained phenomenon of nature. While the breathtaking, yet hazardous, Niagara Falls rushes 6 million cubic feet of water over its edges every minute during its daytime peak, the falls did stand still on March 29, 1848. An ice blockade on Lake Erie stopped the flow of water into the falls, allowing for an opportunity for people to explore the cliffs of Niagara Falls. The falls remains the largest attraction in Niagara County, attracting millions of tourists every year.

Niagara County was one of the pioneers in aviation with its "Grand Balloon Ascension" in July 1858. This display of aeronautical ingenuity brought crowds from all over Niagara County, and also many of the surrounding counties. While the balloon remained in the air

for just over 30 seconds, this display was seen as a huge accomplishment to the crowds that witnessed the event. The manufacturing and research center Bell Aerospace in the town of Wheatfield was instrumental in creating jobs in Niagara County. This plant is well-known around the world for its helicopters, rocket belts, and lunar modules. The rocket powered Bell X-1 supersonic aircraft that broke the sound barrier was piloted in 1947, by the renowned Chuck Yeager. This historic craft is now displayed in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

Not only was Niagara County a leader in aviation, it was instrumental in the development and expansion of the telegraph machine and the telephone in western New York. Niagara County was the location of the second telegraph line in the United States. The line was constructed in 1845 and stretched all the way from Lockport to Buffalo. The telegraph line provided a service experienced by few up to this time in history. The first major message sent on this telegraph line was the results of the 1845 elections. The first telephone arrived in Niagara County in 1878, just 2 years after Alexander Graham Bell patented this invention. This telephone connected Cataract Bank with the home of the bank officer. People came from all over the county to view this life-altering invention.

This bicentennial should be a celebration of the residents of Niagara County past and present. The traditions of hard work and dedication have been instilled in this community. You can tell when you meet the people of Niagara County that they are all willing to lend a hand and help a neighbor.

Thus, Madam Speaker, in recognition of its rich history, innovation, and its wonderful residents, I ask that this honorable body join me in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Niagara county.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2008 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my Virginia colleagues FRANK WOLF and JAMES MORAN to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in northern Virginia. The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety with the prestigious Valor Award. Several members of the Vienna Police Department have earned this highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials.

There are several types of Valor Awards that can be awarded to a public safety officer: the Life Saving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor.

It is with great pride that we enter into the record the names of the recipients of the 2008 Valor Awards in the Vienna Police Department. Receiving the Life Saving Award: Sergeant Anthony R. Clingerman, Master Police Officer Jared B. Evans, Master Police Officer J. Michael Oliver, Master Police Officer H. Trent Nelson; the Silver Medal: Sergeant Anthony R. Clingerman.

Madam Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve in the Vienna Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join us in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 105 on H.R. 2857—GIVE Act, the Flake amendment, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

TRIBUTE TO VICE ADMIRAL FRANK DAY McMULLEN, JR., USN (RET.)

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this means to pay tribute to VADM Frank Day McMullen, Jr. A native of Kansas City, MO, he bravely served our country for 36 years in the United States Navy. Vice Admiral McMullen passed away on January 2, 2008.

Frank McMullen graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1947. He received his post-graduate degree from The George Washington University. He also attended the National War College and served as deputy assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Atomic Energy. Vice Admiral McMullen's extraordinary career led him to command one diesel electric and two nuclear powered submarines, the Submarine Squadron in the Holy Loch, Scotland, the Submarine Fortilla in New London, CT, and the Submarine Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet, in Pearl Harbor, HI.

Vice Admiral McMullen was very fortunate to have the love and understanding of his family who encouraged him, even when he left home to serve on lengthy deployments. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth, who passed away in November 2002, and his daughter Christine, who passed away in March 1994.

Vice Admiral McMullen truly loved his work and was very proud of his service to our country. I hope Members of the House will join me in honoring this outstanding Missourian, an extraordinary naval officer, and a wonderful husband, father, and friend.

CONDEMNING THE ONGOING PALESTINIAN ROCKET ATTACKS ON ISRAELI CIVILIANS

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I voted for this resolution because I believe we must condemn the